



# the WATER RESOURCES REFORM & DEVELOPMENT ACT

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## REFORMS BUREAUCRACY, ACCELERATES PROJECT DELIVERY, AND STREAMLINES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

**OLD PROCESS**

**15+ YEARS**

**NEW PROCESS**

**3 YEARS**

*While it once took the Corps of Engineers three to five years to complete a study, it has now become the norm for this process to take 10 to 15 years. The unwieldy review process remains tied up in red tape, costing us time and money and preventing action. Congress must change the way the Corps of Engineers does business. Specifically, WRRDA:*

- **Sets hard deadlines on the time and cost of studies:** WRRDA limits Corps of Engineers feasibility studies to three years. Currently these studies have no time limit. Additionally, WRRDA caps the federal cost of Corps of Engineers feasibility studies at \$3 million. Currently there is no cap.
- **Requires concurrent reviews:** WRRDA requires District, Division, and Headquarters personnel to concurrently conduct reviews of a feasibility study, eliminating the current practice of sequential reviews.
- **Streamlines environmental reviews:** WRRDA accelerates Corps of Engineers studies and reviews by requiring the Secretary of the Army to hold the lead role in facilitating the environmental review process, requires concurrent environmental reviews, sets deadlines in a consultative process, and ensures collaboration among all agencies involved.
- **Consolidates studies and eliminates duplicative analyses:** WRRDA creates an accelerated process which allows non-federal project sponsors and the Corps of Engineers to proceed directly to a feasibility study and repeals a requirement that the Corps re-evaluate cost estimates immediately after initial cost estimates have been completed.
- **Expedites the evaluation and processing of permits:** WRRDA provides the Corps of Engineers permanent authority to accept funds from non-federal public interests and public utility companies to expedite the processing of permits within the regulatory program of the Corps of Engineers.